

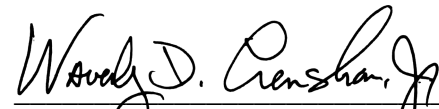
Because the Plaintiff in an official capacity action seeks damages not from the individually named defendant but from the entity for which the defendant is an agent, Pusey v. City of Youngstown, 11 F.3d 652,657 (6th Cir.1993), “an official capacity suit is, in all respects other than name, to be treated as a suit against the entity.” Kentucky v. Graham, 473 U.S. 159,166 (1985). In essence, then, the Plaintiff’s claims are against Maury County, the municipal entity that employs Sheriff Rowland. Hafer v. Melo, 502 U.S. 21,25 (1991).

A claim of governmental liability requires a showing that the misconduct complained of came about pursuant to a policy, statement, regulation, decision or custom promulgated by Maury County or its agent, the Maury County Sheriff’s Department. Monell v. New York City Department of Social Services, 436 U.S. 658 (1978). In short, for Maury County to be liable under § 1983, there must be a direct causal link between an official policy or custom and the alleged constitutional violation. City of Canton v. Harris, 489 U.S. 378 (1989). To establish the requisite causal link, the Plaintiff has to “identify the policy, connect the policy to the county itself and show that the particular injury was incurred because of the execution of that policy”. Garner v. Memphis Police Department, 8 F.3d 358, 363-64 (6th Cir.1993).

The Plaintiff has offered nothing to suggest that his rights were violated pursuant to a policy or regulation of Maury County that required the jailers at the Maury County Jail to deny him kosher meals. Therefore, the Plaintiff has failed to state a claim against Sheriff Rowland acting in his official capacity.

In the absence of an actionable claim, the Court is obliged to dismiss the Complaint *sua sponte*. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2).

An appropriate order will be entered.



WAVERLY D. CRENSHAW JR.
United States District Judge